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news release

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SOUTH TEXAS CONGRESSMAN WELCOMES HER MAJESTY

(WASHINGTON, D C) - Considering the fact she's only been to the United States eight times since 1951, it's not often that Americans get a personal glimpse of the Queen of England. South Texas Congressman E. (Kika) de la Garza (D-TX-15) was offered not one but two opportunities to visit with Queen Elizabeth II. What makes his visits even more unique is the fact that her stay in the nation's capital is a mere 72 hours.

By command of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the British Ambassador invited Congressman and Mrs. de la Garza to a Wednesday afternoon reception at the British Embassy. "It was indeed an honor and privilege for the people of South Texas that Lucille and I represented them, and in their behalf, extended greetings to Her Majesty the Queen," de la Garza said. "They were very polite," he said, noting that when he and Mrs. de la Garza mentioned they were representing the people of South Texas, the Prince replied, "Isn't that near Brownsville?"

The second event Rep. de la Garza attended was a Thursday luncheon in the Queen's honor, in the Capitol. The South Texas Congressman went at the invitation of House Speaker Tom Foley and the House leadership.

Just prior to the luncheon, the Queen made history before a joint session of Congress. Though she has been to the nation's capital before, this marked the first time in America's 384 year history as a British colony that became a nation, that a British monarch appeared before the governing body to address its members.